

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Dauro Family History

To my Dauro cousins:

I never realized how important family was and didn't really appreciate how much family affects each of us until I decided to leave Long Beach and seek my fortune in Florida. It is very close to the feeling that Grandpa Dauro and Grandpa Trippe must have felt when they left Italy.

You know you have to strike out on your own and leave family, familiar territory, and common interests; but the actual leaving is really tough. I suppose the difference now is knowing that you can hop in your car and be home in twelve hours rather than knowing you'll probably never go home, as in their case. At least the people in Florida speak the same language and I did have a job lined up before I arrived.

We all should be very proud of our forefathers for having the courage to make such a move. My pride increases the more I discover about the Dauro-Trippe family.

We were different from most Italian families in that we didn't make a big issue of our Italian traditions, customs or even our language. As a result, most of us have no idea what a strong ethnic attitude is all about especially when compared to our neighbors, the French in Louisiana and the Slavic people in Biloxi.

Each new link in our family history adds something to my character and self-esteem. Old mysteries become clearer each time a new bit of information is discovered. I feel a need to share as much as I can about what I have learned - hoping that my interest in the family will cause others to have the urge to "shake our family tree."

Most of my information has been gathered since our last reunion in 1973. Since then, I have found proof of birth dates on the first six Dauro children as well as some other interesting facts and fiction. I now wish to share with you how I found most of my information and to give you some of my reasons for some of my educated guesses. Hopefully, the other detectives in the family will be stirred by my search and pick up loose ends, make corrections and help in the research.

My first information came from "The Family Story of Vincent and Angelina Trippe Dauro" and "The Dauro Family" prepared for the 1973 reunion. Since then I have been searching for the answers to the following major questions:

- 1) Why did Vincent and Ross leave Sicily?
- 2) Who were their parents?
- 3) Is there proof of the marriage of Vincent and Angelina as described by Uncle Joe Trippe?
- 4) Are there still Dauro-Trippe relatives in Italy or the U.S.?
- 5) Why can't we have a family genealogy published and updated?

From these major questions came many minor questions and some few answers, none of which were major historical finds, but some of which we can claim as historically significant to us.

Why did Vincent and Ross leave Sicily?

Many possibilities come to mind, but none are provable at this time. Some have suggested that they left to avoid military service in the political warfare of the time, to escape high taxes, to avoid civil strife, poor living conditions or family feuds which were prevalent at the time. All of these seem plausible but since no record of the decision to leave is available, the question is still unanswered.

Questions 2 and 3 have been partially answered after several trips to the libraries, phone calls and several letters.

First, we did know that Angelina Trippe's parents were Ross and Mary Conjarda Trippe and that Vincent Dauro's parents were Ross and Theresa Dauro. We knew this but had very little proof especially about Ross and Theresa Dauro. We didn't know her maiden name.

Being a detective at heart never hurts in genealogical research so I found out that most records in Louisiana are maintained by the Churches. To find out where and if the records existed, I started calling Church rectories in Ascension Parish, Assumption and Plaquemines Parishes since these were mentioned in the Family Story. After locating San Gabriel Church, I tried unsuccessfully to reach the priest and decided to call the Librarian. Lucky me! She referred me to Father LeFebvre who forwarded my inquiry to the Archives in Baton Rouge.

In August of 1979, I received startling news. First, Vincent was listed as Charles Dauro, the son of Rosalino Dauro and Salvatora Blondo. Ross Trippe was the father of Angelina but her mother's name was Congade not Conjarda.

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Dauro Family History

Page Two

My first reaction was elation that I had found Grandma Dauro's maiden name, but I couldn't understand how Theresa came from Salvatora. And where could anyone get Charles from Vincent. Did Grandpa Dauro have a middle name or a nickname or was this an error? The only things proven by these records were the names and birth dates of the first six children and the date of Vincent (Charles) and Angelina Trippe Dauro's marriage.

After catching my breath at my discovery, I started seeing some logical connections. First Salvatore and Theresa were names of Dauro children. Also, it was common knowledge that the first son, Ross Joseph, was always known as Charlie. Why wasn't it also possible that the nickname was originally Grandpa Dauro's and the person recording the information wanted to formalize the record by using Charles instead of Charlie. To clear up this question, we need to check Immigration Records in New Orleans.

What about Marie Congade rather than Mary (Maria) Conjarda. Both sound similar if pronounced with a Cajun French accent, Marie being the French spelling of Maria. Neither is correct, however, if we accept the handwritten genealogy of Uncle Joe Trippe, her son, who spelled it Concialdi. I will call his genealogy "Uncle Joe's Meat Market Genealogy" and will take more about it later.

What about the other questions? So far we've been unable to decide why Vincent and Ross left Sicily but we do know more about their parents. Further research was needed.

I talked with Aunt Mary Hansen and she told me that Grandpa Dauro was called Charlie but was surprised to know he had been called Charles in the early days in Louisiana. She also believed that Salvatora could be another way of saying Theresa. Uncle Joe's genealogy mentions a Salvatrice and when said quickly could sound like Theresa.

Aunt Mary had never known about the name Blondo so she couldn't verify that. We have to assume that the information is correct since it was probably given by Vincent Dauro to the priest at the wedding ceremony. There could be a spelling error but it is a start. The same goes for Congade. It sounds like Conjarda and also Concialdi.

Uncle Joe Trippe's daughter, Ethel Melton, provided us with many answers. My mother, Mable Skellie, mentioned to Ethel about my research and wondered if Uncle Joe had recorded any family history or told her anything. What Ethel provided was the most thorough genealogy available on the Trippe family in the handwriting of her father Joseph Trippe on meat wrapping paper from his store in Gulfport as well as Grandpa Trippe's passport.

It seems Uncle Joe was interested in saving family history as I am so he wrote down all he knew one day during a lull at work on the only paper available. He probably was thinking of family or could have even done it at the request of one of his children. I don't know.

He gave not only the names of his parents but also the names of his grandparents and the children of his Trippe grandparents (his aunts and uncles). His parents were Rosolino and Donna Marie Concialdi Trippe. This spelling of her maiden name has to be the most accurate since Uncle Joe was educated and could read and write Italian and most of all she was his mother!

His grandparents were Guiseppe and Angelina Genovese Trippe, the latter being a common if not sometimes infamous name in Sicily. It's little wonder that almost every son's name in the family had Guiseppe as a middle or first name and that the first daughter would be named Angelina.

He also listed his other grandparents as Guiseppe and Francesca Romano Concialdi. Again, the Joseph's significance as a family name and strong possibility for Aunt Frances Killebrew's namesake.

Even though Uncle Joe's genealogy has helped a great deal it hasn't answered all the questions. We still don't know birth dates, marriages, etc. That's how genealogy works - no answers to questions, just more questions!

I'm sure that at this point most of you are one of two things - confused or interested - possibly both. Either way the job of documenting family history is a fascinating but time consuming hobby and should be a perpetual project. One thing we should all remember and to emphasize it I am going to use it as a closing remark. Don't believe everything you hear or read about family history. All people make mistakes and legends tend to become fact so keep on searching for the facts and record them. If you're not sure, say so; but always remember that even if your opinion turns out to be wrong, at least it might give someone else the hint or clue they need to prove its validity or find the correct answer.

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Dauro Family History

Page Three

Let's not let this work be forgotten because we're too busy. How would you feel if one of your grandchildren asks who their great grandparents were and your son or daughters didn't know. Let's all make sure that the feeling of pride we have for our family is increased and passed on to later generations.

Thank you all for making this family what it is today and what it will be remembered for tomorrow.

God Bless You All,

Ronnie Skellie